GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:16
ANSWERED ON:20.02.2001
ACCIDENTS IN COAL MINES
RAMDAS ATHAWALE;SANJAY PASWAN

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a): whether a large number of workers drowned in the water that gusted into Jairampur and Bagdighi Coal Mines ofDhanbad of BCCL as reported in 'The Statesman' dated February 3, 2001;

(b): if so, the facts in this regard and the reasons for this mishap;

(c): whether it is a fact that the management's non- compliance of guidelines regarding safety of mines and the prevalent corruption have resulted in the mishap in the Gaglitand Colliery of BCCL in Bihar in 1995;

(d): if so, the reasons for not using the light heavy- duty pumps procured from Ukraine at the time of Gaglitand Mine mishap;

(e): whether all coal companies are following the recommendations made by enquiry committee set up for Gaglitand mines mishap;

(f): the number of accidents that took place in the coal mines and the number of casualties during the last six months till date, mine-wise, state-wise;
(g): the number of casualties during the said period, mine-wise;
(h): whether any inquiry has been conducted to ascertain the causes of these accidents:
(i): if so, the outcome thereof;
(j): the details of steps taken by the Government to check such accidents in future;
(k): whether in this context, the role of the trade unions also come under scrutiny; and
(l): if so, the factual position in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN)
(a) to (l): A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement referred to in parts (a) to (l) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 16 for 20.2.2001 regarding Accidents in Coal Mines.

On 2.2.2001 at about 12.30 pm there was a sudden inrush of water in the workings of Bagdigi where thirty persons including the Manager and Asstt. Manger were trapped. Out of the thirty persons, one person, Shri Salim Ansari was rescued alive from Bagdigi.

While the development of VII seam in Bagdigi Collieryunder Lodna area was in progress within the leasehold area of Bagdigi towards Joyrampur, level 3 heading of VII seam of Bagdigi Colliery joinedwith 15 level waterlogged old working (1962) of Joyrampur colliery resulting in inundation of developed galleries of VII seam of Bagdigi colliery.

The reasons for the mishap will be known after the statutory enquiry by Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) under the Ministry of Labour and by the Court of Enquiry being set up by the Ministry of Labour.

The findings of Court of Enquiry of Gaslitand Colliery does not indicate that the management`s non- compliance of guidelines regarding mine safety had resulted in the mishap in the Gaslitand Colliery of BCCL in Bihar.

The Geo-mining conditions obtaining at Bagdigi Colliery do not permit the use of the heavy duty submersible pumps at Bagdigi.

The recommendations made in respect of the enquiry committee in regard to Gaslitand mine mishap of BCCLare under different stages of implementation.

The number of fatal accidents, fatalities, the amount of compensation paid to the dependents of the deceased, mine-wise and state-wise is given at Annexure 1.

In addition to enquiries conducted by DGMS the Internal Safety Organisation (ISO) ofsubsidiary companies conducts enquiry into each fatal accident.

The enquiry into each fatal accident by ISOof subsidiary companies makes recommendations as to how each of these accidents could have been averted. These are implemented. Secondly, responsibility for the accident is fixed by the enquiry and disciplinary action is taken against the persons held responsible in accordance with the provisions of the disciplinary and conduct rules of Coal

India Ltd,.

Coal India Limited and its subsidiary companies are taking the following steps to check accidents in its coal mines :

(1) Before every monsoon the danger of inundation from both surface and underground sources of water are examined in every mine and an action plan for preventive measures against the same is prepared and implemented.

(2) Regular periodic safety audits of mines by experienced mining and electrical / mechanical engineers and implementation of the recommendations.

(3) Design of system of support of roof in the development workings in underground mines by scientific support systems based on rock-mass-rating studies .

(4) Progressive use of steel support in underground mines.

(5) Greater use of quick-setting cement capsule grouted roof bolts for support in development workings in underground mines.

(6) Reduced exposure of workers to mining hazards by mechanisation of loading operations by increasing use of SDLs & LHDs in below ground mines.

(7) Thrust on training & retraining of workmen, supervisors to increase safety awareness of the workmen

(8) A comprehensive action plan has been framed to reduce accidents in opencast mines and at surface of mines